Matt. 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

The published statement of Luther Burbank concerning his religious belief, or rather unbelief, has startled the reading public. The influence of his statement cannot be overestimated. Read extracts.

The limitations of a scientific specialist.

In hisown realm of investigation, he deals with forces that he does not know anything about and concerning which he has no scientific understanding whatsoever. And yet, because of certain results obtained, he directs and utilizes the said forces for his scientific purposes. Burbank deals with the processes , in plant life, of changing mineral substances into vegetable, and of one form of vegetable into other forms. But Burbank does not know how it is done. He does not understand the Directing and energizing power that makes such processes possible. Nor can he, himself, create such forces, and yet, Burbank does not hesitate to continue his operations in dealing with his plants.

And now Burbank steps out of his own specialized realm of scientific investigation into the realm of Religion and declares that all religions past and to be are tottering, that because he cannot scientifically prove the Resurrection and scientifically the God Mind at work n the Universe, he must refrain from personally believeing in them.

You have a right to hear from your pastor who is a minister of the Gospel concerning Burbank s statements.

Concerning Burbank himself I thank God for him and for all the good that he is doing. Concerning Burbank s skepticism I regret that he does not exercise the same consideration towards the unknown in the realm of Religion as he does in his own scientific realm.

Burbank and all scientists deal with forces that cannot be understood except in the results of their workings. Burbank does not know what Protoplasm is any more than the most spiritual-minded believer knows what God is. But Burbank does know how Protoplasm acts under certain conditions and in certain forms. And I also declare that those who are in authority in the realm of Religion know how God acts undertain conditions and in certain definite ways.

The Apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation", and there are millions today who can say the same thing from personall experience.

2. Conversion by belief in God thru Jesus Christ is still an active working power. Noone can tell how the human soul is transformed by the working of the H Holy Spirit of God, but we have ample evidence to prove that souls are being transormed from sin and selfishness into godlikeness and unselfishness.

As a result of Conversion the Christian virtues are being developed into Christian Character, and Xn characte represents the highest type of character and manhood that has yet been brot forth on the face of the earth.

The Xn virtues have not been educated into existance nor have they been experienced into existance, they have have been born into existance thru the religious process which we call Conversion. When a soul, in humble faith, submits to God, he becomes a new creature, and that new creature is still mankind's greatest blessing and strongest uplifting power for good.

As a guide to our concluding thot for this morning, let me take a statement from the other infidel referred to by Burbank- it is recorded in Matt.21:22 And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall r receive.

The receiving referrred to in our text depends upon three things- Desire, Supplication and Faith.

I. Desire. What should be the great desire of this church at this time? The winning of souls to Christ. The revival of spiritual interest and enthusasism in our own members. The restoration of the family altars in our Xn homes.

Why should this be our supreme desire? Because our very homes and lives are in peril. We need the protection of Xn living to make the world safe for ourselves and our children. People never need Christ so much as they do right now. Their wealth, leisure and self-confidence are their very dangers.

The Church of Christ is in peril. Our own church needs to wake up, get busy and do dome growing.

II. Let us ask for it. "Ask and ye shall receive". An earnest spirit of prayer and supplication alone can bring the fulfillment of our desire.

Scores of vessels laden with supplies and produce cannot reach their docks becuse the river is frozen.

God is willing and waiting to bestow upon us ruch blessing but the channel is closed by the ice of indifference.

III. Let us expect it. This is a matter of Faith.

Remember those who prayed for Peter's release? And how they could not believe theiry bery eyes when he appeared in their midst? That is our trouble, we pray for certain results, we ask God to do certain things but we do not expect that He will them. Shame on us, oh we of little faith!

God is far more willing to bless than we are to receive.

But ours must be more than a praying faith- it must also be a working faith.

A living, believing faith goes to work in every practical way. We are co-workers with God.

The man who trusted God and would not tie his horse

We must get busy. Speak to others about their soul-salvation. Ask them to come to the house of God. Catholics are not ashamed to talk boldly about their religion. Christian Scientists are always inviting other Mormons are all missionaries, constantly working at their job. Jesus Christ commanded us to work- to go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in.